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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: A-64411-2/RFT/RMS/RMK

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

) Examiner: Not Assigned
)

) MEADE et al.
)

) Group: Not Assigned
)

) Serial No.: 09/921,645
)

) Filed: August 3, 2001
)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

) For: METALLIC SOLID SUPPORTS
) MODIFIED WITH NUCLEIC
) ACIDS
)

) I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited
) with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in
) an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner
) for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on October 5, 2001

) Signed: Mary M. Farland
)

Mary McFarland

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231
BOX: MISSING PARTS/FEE

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies the filing of a Notice to File Missing Parts of Application mailed August 29, 2001.

Prior to examination of the above identified application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

After page 35, please insert new page 36 as follows:

ABSTRACT

--The present invention is directed to solid supports having metallic surfaces comprising blocking moieties and modified nucleic acids, which exhibit excellent characteristics in hybridization assays, in a stable, reproducible, rapid manner. In an additional aspect, the invention provides methods utilizing the solid supports to hybridize probe nucleic acid to target nucleic acid and methods for detecting the hybridization complex.--

REMARKS

An abstract has been provided as requested. A copy of the abstract, properly formatted, is enclosed.

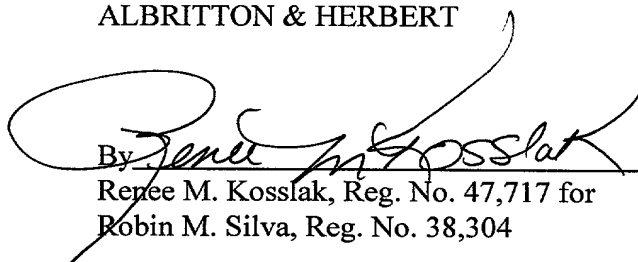
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1300 (Our Order No. A-64411-1/RFT/RMS/RMK).

Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at (415) 781-1989.

Dated: 10/5/01

Respectfully submitted,

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ALBRITTON & HERBERT

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